

have prepared us for the almost revolutionary fact that exogenic reinfection in the adult probably seldom if ever occurs. The author in support of this theory calls attention to the fact that attendants and inmates of hospitals for consumptives show no higher mortality nor morbidity from tuberculosis than those in other occupations; that marital phthisis, in spite of intimate and prolonged contact is very rare; that clinical proofs, exist of immunity acquired by tuberculous infection.

Admitting the extreme rarity of exogenic reinfection the inefficacy of much of the activity in modern efforts at prophylaxis come prominently to view. In the effort to protect the adult against reinfection from without the child possessing no hereditary immunity has been too largely overlooked. This would indicate that our tuberculosis campaign will have to be in large measure reorganized and carried on along somewhat different lines of activity. The reader is left in doubt as to the method by which tuberculosis infection originally takes place, although the author rather indicates that because of the predilection of childhood to infection the portals of entry of tubercle bacilli may be various. The numerous investigators along the lines of theories of infection are freely quoted and particularly is that very excellent work of Brauer, Schroeder and Blumenfeld's *Handbuch der Tuberkulose* frequently referred to.

The chapters devoted to symptomatology and physical signs are quite full and complete. The importance of Pottenger's interpretation of spasm and degeneration of thoracic muscles is emphasized and its great value as an aid to early diagnosis admitted. The technic for eliciting various physical signs has been elaborated with great detail and will certainly be of great value to the general practitioner in making more thorough examinations. There is much that is interesting in what the author has to say on auscultation of the chest. Authorities are freely quoted and it is here that in his description of rough or granular breathing, a particularly important early auscultatory sign, it is unfortunate that in his mention of the many writers who have called attention to the sign, he has neglected to give credit to Turban who first brought it out.

The chapter on skiagraphy is conservative, emphasizing as it does, the limitations of this aid in diagnosis. There is not an uninteresting chapter in the book and space forbids a careful review of those devoted to the clinical forms of phthisis, its complications, prognosis, etc.

As would be expected from the author's view of phthisiogenesis, the space devoted to prophylaxis is very significant and is necessarily viewed from the standpoint of prophylaxis in children and prophylaxis in the adult.

The chapters devoted to treatment are on the whole disappointing. Differences regarding the symptomatic treatment of tuberculosis and its complications one expects in different individuals. In a work however, where individualism in treatment is emphasized to the extent that it is in Dr. Fishberg's book one is disappointed at seeing the pessimistic attitude of the author toward institutional treatment. There is no place where more thorough individualism can be applied than in well conducted sanatoria and in Dr. Fishberg's criticism, that in institutions patients are treated too much en masse, it would seem that he has been unfortunate in the sanatoria he has investigated. His criticism may largely hold in municipal, state and philanthropic institutions, but it certainly does not prevail in well conducted private institutions under good scientific control. The reviewer decidedly dissents from the author in his statement that we are apt to lose that objectivity in our attitude toward these patients by seeing them too frequently. The reverse is true.

However, this chapter on institutional treatment will certainly afford cause for reflection on the

part of those enthusiasts who give to the sanatorium altogether too important a place as a factor in the tuberculosis campaign. It is certainly the most expensive weapon in the campaign, probably the least effective.

It is to be regretted that the author handles the subject of specific treatment in tuberculosis in a flippant manner, utterly out of keeping with the general excellence of the book. Of course one can scarcely expect other results where directions for the use of tuberculin are as loosely given and where the author practically recommends the use of serial dilutions put up by pharmaceutical houses. This particular chapter contains many misstatements of facts. For instance, the author states that tuberculin is given at present by most who use this agent for its psychic effects. In reading this chapter one can not help thinking of the statement of Sahli, who with his wealth of clinical experience and his keen analytical mind, stated that "while blind enthusiasm for tuberculin treatment can hardly be laid to my charge, I honestly believe that it is the best weapon of modern times in the fight against tuberculosis."

The chapter on artificial pneumothorax is well written, without boring the reader with too much of the historical. His attitude toward this procedure is conservative in marked and relieving contrast to the tendency altogether too prevalent nowadays of compressing all cases, regardless of whether they are unilateral or not, where the credulity of the patient will admit of such treatment. The author states that hardly five per cent. of cases are suitable for pneumothorax treatment. These figures are probably accurate.

Climatic treatment deserves comment. The attitude of the author is sane and this chapter should be read by all who have access to the book for we still find men, happily less frequently, in all communities, who worship this fetish, ignoring the more important factors in treatment.

The book is well printed; the subjects are well arranged and the text is profusely illustrated. The book should find a useful place in the library of every practitioner. G. H. E.

#### WARNING.

We are advised that a very clever swindle is being worked by a young man calling on physicians in various sections of the county. He is fraudulently soliciting orders and collecting money for subscriptions to medical journals, and for medical books published by various firms. He usually represents himself as a student, working his way through college, and trying to get a number of votes to help him win a certain contest. He sometimes uses the names of L. D. Grant, H. E. Peters, R. A. Douglas, and F. C. Schneider, and he usually gives a receipt bearing the heading of some society, or association, such as United Students' Aid Society, the Alumni Educational League, the American Association for Education, etc.

The description given of this swindler is: Young man of the Jewish type, rather slender, with very dark hair combed straight back, and shows his teeth plainly when talking.

The whole scheme is a fraud. The societies mentioned do not exist. The idea is to collect money by offering special discounts and prices on medical books and journals, and skip with the money.

This young man does not represent W. B. Saunders Company, whose name he frequently uses. He is a fraudulent subscription agent, and physicians generally should be on the lookout for him.

#### STATE DESTROYS MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD.

Nearly a million pounds of foodstuffs, unfit for human consumption, have been condemned and destroyed by the California State Board of Health during the past four months. Some of these products were decayed, others were infested with